

# INFORMATION LETTER

## NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

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For Members  
Only

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### TIN CONSERVATION PROCEDURES

#### O.P.M. Requests Measures to Achieve Reductions in Can Coatings

Certain procedures that would effect a ten per cent reduction in the tin coating of most cans have been requested of can manufacturers and tin plate concerns by the Office of Production Management. This is an outgrowth of the conference on tin conservation, reported in the April 19 INFORMATION LETTER, at which representatives of can and tin plate manufacturing industries expressed the opinion that reduction in tin plating could be achieved for defense purposes.

Reduction of the coating, and other conservation measures, were asked in letters addressed by W. L. Batt, Deputy Director of the Production Division of OPM, to members of these two industries—the can manufacturers being requested to put the suggested policies into effect on and after May 30, 1941, and the plate manufacturers to begin conforming their manufacturing practices to the new can specifications not later than May 15, 1941. They were asked to continue them "through the present emergency or until notified to the contrary by OPM." It was stated that savings approximating seventeen per cent of the tin consumed by the container industry would result.

Can manufacturers were told that they might continue to use the present amount of tin coating on containers designed for the following list of products, which, as states OPM, is based on canned foods enumerated in "The Canned Food Handbook", 7th printing, published by the American Can Company. No reduction in tin coating is allowable in cans for these products:

*Fruits:* Apple products, all styles except apple sauce; whole apricots, peeled or unpeeled; halved apricots, peeled or unpeeled; berries, all varieties except blueberries in plain cans; cherries, all varieties; cranberry products; currants; fruits, spiced and pickled; fruits, strained; grapefruit; grapes; ripe olives; papayas; peaches, spiced; pears, spiced; plums; prunes, dry or in syrup; quinces; rhubarb.

*NOTE:* The ten per cent reduction in weight of tin coating for peach and pear cans is permissible only where type L steel base plate is used.

*Vegetables:* Green beans, all styles in inside enameled cans; dry beans, Mexican style; beets, all styles; carrots, all styles in inside enameled cans; pickles; sauerkraut; strained and chopped vegetables, all varieties.

*Specialties:* Chow-chow; fruit butters; jams and jellies; marmalades; milk, sweetened condensed; mince meat; puddings, plum; puddings, spiced.

*Chili-con-carne; frankfurters and sauerkraut.*

*All food juices, except clam, pineapple and tomato.*

*Reduction permissible with respect to all items thereunder listed.*

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The following three specific conservation measures are requested of the can manufacturers by OPM:

1. For most types of tin cans use tin plate with a thin coating weighing 1.35 pounds per base box instead of 1.5 pounds as at present. (A base box is 112 sheets of tin plate 14" x 20",  
(Continued on next page)

### F.S.C.C. PURCHASES TOMATOES

#### Acceptance of 618,675 Cases from Spot Stocks Is Announced

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation announced May 3 the acceptance of 618,675 cases of canned tomatoes from offers made by canners of existing or spot stocks.

This purchase in equivalent No. 2 size cans would represent 689,520 cases. No. 10 tins were not accepted, as the offers were proportionately small as this size apparently is most needed by the Army.

No. 2 tomatoes were accepted up to 75¢ per dozen and No. 2½'s up to 97½¢ per dozen. A few offers of Extra Standard, or B grade, fell within this limit and were accepted. Most of the purchases, however, were Standard, or C grade.

Offers were accepted from canners in the follow States: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Utah, and California.

This purchase of spot tomatoes is an integral part of the canned tomato purchase program under the Lend-Lease Act, details of which were presented in the INFORMATION LETTERS of April 19 and April 26. It is not contemplated, at this time, that further purchases of spot stocks will be made, but bids for futures will be requested on the first and third Tuesdays of each month until August 1, in accordance with the F. S. C. C. announcement dated April 29 and published in the May 3 INFORMATION LETTER.

A report of purchases during the past week of other canned foods by the Surplus Marketing Administration can be found elsewhere in the Letter.

### WAGE AND HOUR DRIVE

#### Federal Inspectors Will Take Field May 12 Investigating Canneries

A formal Wage and Hour Act compliance drive in the fruit and vegetable canning industry will commence on May 12, according to officials of the Wage and Hour Division. Regular field inspectors of the Wage and Hour Division, aided by specially trained men from the Washington office of the Division, will concentrate their investigations in each

geographic region of the country as the canning season progresses. Plans of the Division call for each regional investigation to be completed within 90 days after the opening of the season.

A similar drive in the citrus packing industry has been in progress for some time. Results of the drive to date indicate that of 337 firms covered, 85 were complying and 252 firms were violating the wage and hour law. Violations of the minimum wage requirements of the law accounted for 66 of the total while 63 of the violations were for failure to comply with the maximum hour limitations.

#### TIN CONSERVATION PROCEDURES

(Continued from preceding page)

or the equivalent.) The manufacturers may continue to use 1.5 plate for containers designed for certain packs, which were listed.

2. Substitute terne plate for tin coated containers wherever feasible. Terne plate is made of tin and lead and requires less tin than tin plate. Terne plate is already being substituted for tin plate in many types of paint cans.

3. Use black plate instead of terne plate wherever terne or tin coatings are not required. Black plate is plain uncoated sheet steel. It is already being used for the sides of some containers, such as oil cans.

Pointing out that all of this country's sources of tin were dependent upon water-borne transportation, with 90 per cent of it coming from the Straits Settlements and the Dutch East Indies, Mr. Batt wrote:

"Consequently it is essential in order to safeguard our defense production that we build up our reserves in this country. Between government stockpiles, inventories of consumers and manufacturers, and tin afloat, it is estimated that we now have sufficient tin to carry us through for about fourteen months. In order to accelerate the acquisition of tin necessary for the national defense, it is necessary to restrict its use."

#### NEW AGRICULTURAL DEFENSE SET-UP

##### Takes Over Former Functions of Agriculture Division of N.D.A.C.

Functions previously assigned to the Division of Agriculture of the National Defense Advisory Commission were placed under the jurisdiction of an "Office for Agricultural Defense Relations" within the Department of Agriculture, May 5. This move was explained to Secretary of Agriculture Wickard in a letter from President Roosevelt setting forth his aim of "further strengthening the emergency organization for defense by placing special defense activities where they will be brought closer to the established agricultural programs of the Government." In requesting creation of the new office, the President took the position that agriculture's most vital defense functions are (1) guarantee of an adequate supply of food for the needs of this Nation, and supplemental needs of nations whose defense is essential to our defense and (2) provision of sufficient agricultural raw materials for expanded defense production.

The President set forth the following duties for the new Office for Agricultural Defense Relations:

1. Serve as a clearing house to bring into common focus the consideration of agricultural needs and problems as they relate to the defense program;

2. Facilitate the coordination of defense operations carried on by the various bureaus and agencies of the Department of Agriculture;

3. Assist the Secretary in the maintenance of effective channels of communication between the Department of Agriculture and the several agencies of the Office for Emergency Management, the Departments of War and Navy, and other defense agencies, with respect to problems of procurement, production, priorities, price, and other activities involving agricultural considerations;

4. Assist in the planning of adjustments in the agricultural program in order to meet defense needs."

The same press release announcing the new Office for Agricultural Defense relations disclosed the resignation of Chester C. Davis as agricultural member of the National Defense Advisory Commission and presented in full his letter of resignation and the president's reply.

#### ACREAGE INCREASES APPROVED

##### A.A.A. Grants Growers Acreage Increases for Defense, without Penalty

Consistent with the effort of the Department of Agriculture to facilitate a major increase in the pack of canned tomatoes in response to the food for defense program, and to give some encouragement to smaller increases in snap beans, peas and sweet corn, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has announced that it will remove any provisions in its program that might in any way hinder any farmer from making any increase that he desires in acreages of these four crops.

Triple-A provisions will be amended so that farmers who contribute to the requested expansion will not incur deductions from their farm program payments because of increases made this year in acreage of tomatoes and the other crops mentioned, grown for processing. In the April 19 INFORMATION LETTER account of the additional Tomato Purchases planned by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation under Lend-Lease provisions, it was pointed out that growers participating in this program will not incur deductions in their A.A.A. payments because of increases in acreage, above allotments.

The April 29 Department of Agriculture release giving farmers a go-ahead signal on such increases stated that in general the necessary amendments would provide that:

(1) In determining compliance with vegetable acreage allotments in 1941, acreages of tomatoes, corn, peas and snap beans grown for processing in any form will not be considered as commercial vegetables. In effect, this encourages such expanded production of these four vegetables for processing as farmers find possible to fit into their farming plans.

(2) Acreages of these four crops grown for processing will not be classified as soil-depleting in 1941. This change will enable growers in areas where total soil-depleting allotments are applicable to expand the acreages of these crops without incurring deductions from their payments."

According to an unofficial statement from A.A.A., the soil conservation program of the Triple-A varies so greatly from area to area in the effort to fit the program to the variety of conditions prevailing in the different sections, that a statement of the adjustments in the program required to help the

increase seems intricate. The clearest general expression that is universally true is about as follows:

Any farmer may increase his acreages of tomatoes, sweet corn, peas and snap beans for processing without causing, on that account, any decrease in any payment that he would receive under the Federal Farm program.

It is difficult to describe all the changes made in the program to effect this result. For the major canning crop areas the changes are, in general, as follows:

"Tri-State" Area—Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. Here there is a commercial vegetable acreage, allotment with a small payment of \$1.30 per acre and a deduction from any payment earned under the conservation program of \$20 for each acre planted to commercial vegetables in excess of the allotment.

Change: The four crops will not be included as commercial vegetables when acreages are measured to determine whether there is overplanting.

Midwestern Area—the entire Midwest from Ohio to Arkansas and Oklahoma and including Wisconsin and Minnesota. There is established a "total soil-depleting" acreage. A farmer cannot plant more acres of "soil-depleting crops" than his total without incurring a deduction from any payments earned under any part of the conservation program.

Change: The four crops will not be included in the "soil-depleting" crops when acreages are measured in 1941.

Pacific Coast Area—There is a variety of program in this area. Whenever any of these crops are included in the commercial vegetable allotment, the action is the same as in the Tri-State area. Wherever there is a "total depleting" acreage, it is the same as in the Midwest.

## CURRENT CANNED FOOD INDICATORS

### Data on Canned Foods Movements, Trends, and Supplies Furnished by Foodstuffs Division

Wholesale distributor's stocks of canned foods on April 1, 1941, had declined from both January 1 and April 1 of last year, indicating a movement on into retail channels or an actual consumption of the current season's larger shipments from packers, according to the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, in its report for March, just issued. Following these large movements into domestic trade channels, spot quotations on canned tomatoes already had started firming up even prior to the April 17 announcement of the intention of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation to purchase its 15,000,000 cases from the 1941 pack for shipment to England, and for other uses. This announcement brought about a further rise in spot quotations, the report states.

The rising volume of canned foods leaving packers' hands for distributing channels had continued into March. Packers' shipments of a group of 10 principal canned seasonal vegetables, fruits, fish and milk, combined, were about one-third above a year ago (fifteen and a half million compared with eleven and a half million cases), a much sharper rise than the eight per cent gain in total food shipments by manufacturers.

Foreign trade in canned foods continued in March at the low levels of recent months, with larger shipments of canned milk the only substantial export item.

### Supplies Depend on Yield from Greater Acreage

With a small packers' carryover in sight, supplies of canned seasonal vegetables in the next season will depend on the coming summer's packing operations, the report continues. Preliminary planting intentions indicated that 1,285,000 acres (11 per cent above 1940) would be used for peas, beets, tomatoes, corn, and snap beans for canning in 1941. These vegetables, combined, accounted for 70 per cent of total seasonal canned vegetable production last year. Smallest increase was 3 per cent for tomatoes and reflected tomato processors' intentions before being requested to increase their canned tomato packs by 50 per cent. Similarly, the reports of pea canners' acreage intentions were made up in February while canners' stocks of peas still were considerably above year-ago levels.

Packers' early acreage contracts reflected their combined judgment at that time of amounts of canned foods they could sell profitably during the coming season. Several psychological factors which have received publicity may have induced packers to revise upward their first ideas with respect to packs, it is stated.

On the other hand, fear of labor shortage or of higher labor costs, due to the draft and to competition with defense and other industries for a dwindling labor supply, might deter either growers or canners from making additional acreage contracts. Labor shortage occurring during the vital peak canning season would, of course, affect the size of the 1941 packs regardless of the amounts of vegetables for processing that are in the fields.

### Smaller Canned Fruits Carryover in Sight

By April 1, 1941, canners' holdings of peaches, based on a representative sample obtained by the Census Bureau, were down to only a little more than one-half of their holdings on the same date a year ago, whereas canners' stocks of pears were two and one-third times those of a year ago. Stocks of the two combined were about one-fifth under last year. Wholesale distributors' stocks of each of these two items were about one-seventh larger on April 1, 1941, compared with a year ago.

Canned fruit stocks apparently are adequate but not excessive for the remainder of the marketing season to June 1. Present indications are that the California fruit carryover (nearly one-half of the United States total) on that date will be somewhat smaller than the relatively large average California carryover of the past two years of about 4,400,000 cases.

### Forty Per Cent Larger Canned Milk Shipments

Moving into the flush production period, canned evaporated and condensed milk production was 5 per cent larger in March, 1941, than the above-average production of March, 1940, an increase maintained also for the first quarter of 1941 compared with 1940. Packers' stocks, however, registered a sharp decline during the month, and on April 1, 1941, were about one-fifth below the relatively heavy holdings of a year earlier.

Of total packers' shipments of canned milk during March, which were two-fifths larger than the preceding March movement (5.8 million cases compared with 4.2 million), the Surplus Marketing Administration took delivery of 340,000 cases, export markets 320,000 (up from 64,000 last year), and domestic distributors the remainder, representing an increase of about a million cases moving into domestic commercial channels during March.

Wholesale grocers' stocks after this movement were about one-fifth larger on April 1 than a year earlier.

Between April 1 and April 12, the Surplus Marketing Administration accepted offers for 75,000 cases of canned

evaporated milk, and on April 23 called for additional offers to be submitted on April 29 and on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month until the end of June 1941.

The average wholesale price of \$2.95 per case for evaporated and \$4.80 for condensed milk in March was unchanged from that of February.

#### Canned Fish Supplies Under Year Ago

April 1 wholesale stocks of tuna, salmon, and sardines combined were still 8 per cent below a year ago after a gain of 7 per cent during the first quarter of 1941. These three items account for 80 per cent of total canned fish production.

Following a record pack of tuna in 1940 (nearly 600,000 cases above 1939), the California tuna pack in the first quarter of 1941 fell about one-third (150,000 cases) below the first quarter of 1940. This smaller first-quarter pack and the fact that wholesale distributors' stocks of tuna increased nearly one-third at the same time to the highest level for April 1 of the last four years may be some indication of recent tuna stocks in packers' hands, on which no data are available. With increasing production, wholesale tuna stocks have been larger on each successive April 1 for the last four years. In 1941, they were 12 per cent above April 1, 1940.

Stocks of canned salmon in wholesalers' hands on April 1, at 4 per cent under last year, were about the average of the preceding three years. On that date, however, packers' stocks were low, as indicated in the accompanying table.

Wholesalers' total sardine stocks April 1, 1941, at one-third below last year, were the smallest of the last four years on that date. Wholesalers' January 1 holdings of California pilchards had increased 16 per cent (compared with the January to April increase of 51 per cent in 1940 and 81 per cent in 1939). This stock increase during 1941's first quarter left wholesalers' stocks 8 per cent short of their holdings of California sardines on April 1, 1940, but above those of the two preceding years.

(Trade estimates indicate there were about 600,000 cases of California sardines on hand April 1, 1941, of which probably only about two-thirds were unsold. During April the F.S.C.C. purchased 103,635 cases.)

#### Sardines and Mackerel for Britain

Fairly substantial purchases of California pilchards are expected to be made by the F.S.C.C. under the Lend-Lease Act during coming months.

Around the first of April, canners were reported by trade sources to be holding substantial stocks of sardines purchased by Britain, with the privilege of canceling bookings if licenses and shipping instructions had not been issued by the end of April. The amount of these bookings, if canceled for direct purchase by England, could be transferred to the Surplus Marketing Administration for British account.

A Government fishery expert flew to the West Coast in the third week of April to investigate methods of increasing the new pilchard pack when the season opens in August. (Of the huge total catch of pilchards, amounting to 455,000 tons in the season just ended on March 31, only about one-half was received for canning. The remainder, utilized for oil and meal, could be utilized for canning should economic returns to the canner justify such diversion.)

The 1940 mackerel pack exceeded that of 1939 by 400,000 cases. As a result of these larger supplies and the prevailing low price level, the January-March mackerel pack of 1941 was reduced 170,000 cases below that of 1940.

The following tables, containing current canned food indicators for fish and meat products were compiled by the

Foodstuffs Division as part of the March report. Statistics on fruits and vegetables have appeared in previous issues of the INFORMATION LETTER.

	Current period	Same period year ago	Change from year ago
CANNED FISH			
<b>Total Canned Fish and Shellfish:</b>	<i>1,000 Cases</i>	<i>1,000 Cases</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
U. S. exports—March	82	237	— 66
U. S. exports—July 1—March 31	1,995	2,133	— 7
U. S. imports <sup>1</sup> —March	34	38	— 9
U. S. imports—July 1—March 31	336	821	— 59
<b>Mackerel:</b>			
California pack—March	20	44	— 54
California pack—Jan. 1—March 31	179	346	— 48
<b>Salmon:</b>			
Packers' unsold stocks—March 31:			
Total	363	1,370	— 74
Alaska Reds	84	985	— 92
Pinks	111	155	— 28
Cohos, Silvers, Medium Reds	46	65	— 30
Representative distributors' stocks—April 1 <sup>2</sup> :			
Total	363	409	— 4
Reds	117	151	— 23
Pinks	194	185	+ 5
Other	82	73	+ 13
U. S. exports—March	12	21	— 44
U. S. exports to England—March	7	9	— 27
U. S. exports—July 1—March 31	988	654	+ 51
U. S. exports to England—July 1—March 31	932	542	+ 72
<b>Sardines:</b>			
California pack—March	15	92	— 84
California pack—Aug. 1—March 31	3,116	3,139	— 1
Representative distributors' stocks—April 1 <sup>2</sup> :			
Total	146	215	— 32
California sardines	105	113	— 8
Maine sardines	22	50	— 63
Imported sardines	19	42	— 56
U. S. exports—March	64	201	— 68
U. S. exports to England—March	2	123	— 98
U. S. exports—Aug. 1—March 31	750	1,282	— 41
U. S. exports to England—Aug. 1—March 31	269	521	— 48
U. S. imports <sup>3</sup>			
Canned sardines in oil:			
March	12	14	— 15
August 1—March 31	84	238	— 65
Canned herring, smoked or kippered or in tomato sauce (in cans of more than 1 lb. gross weight):			
March	2	1	+ 29
August 1—March 31	6	11	— 45
Canned sardines and other herring, not in oil <sup>4</sup> :			
March	2	4	— 63
August 1—March 31	12	78	— 85

	Shrimp:	none	3	...
Pack—March	909	1,068	— 15	
Pack—July 1—March 31	5	11	+ 60	
U. S. exports—March	95	222	+ 57	
U. S. exports—July 1—March 31				

	Tuna:	113	182	— 38
California pack—March	432	479	— 31	
California pack—Jan. 1—March 31	197	176	+ 12	
Representative distributors' stocks—April 1 <sup>2</sup>	10	9	+ 4	
U. S. imports—March	31	143	— 78	
U. S. imports—Jan. 1—March 31				

Case Sizes: Packers' and distributors' stocks—actual cases all sizes; California fish pack—sardines and mackerel—48 1-lb. ovals or equivalents, tuna—48 1/2-lb. cans; shrimp pack—48 5 1/2-oz cans; U. S. exports and imports—converted from pounds to cases of the following sizes: total canned fish—standard cases of 48 1-lb cans; shrimp—48 5 1/2-oz. cans; tuna—48 1/2-lb. cans; all other—48 1-lb. cans.

\* Revision.

<sup>1</sup> Includes an indeterminable amount of non-sardine types.

<sup>2</sup> Not total stocks. A sample based on reports from the same firm for both years.

<sup>3</sup> U. S. published statistics show imports of certain fish products in gross weight, i.e., including weight of immediate container (can). The above figures are based on net weight, estimated by the U. S. Tariff Commission at 43 per cent less than gross canned weight for sardines in oil, 8 per cent less for anchovies, 31 per cent less for "sardines and other herring," and 65 per cent less for crabmeat.

CANNED MEATS	Current period	Same period year ago	Change from year ago	1,000 Cases	1,000 Cases	Per cent
Total canned meats and meat products:						
Production—March	2,701	2,192	+ 23			
Production—January 1—March 31	8,066	6,730	+ 20			
Imports—March	167	140	+ 19			
Imports—January 1—March 31	493	574	- 14			
Exports—March	22	31	- 31			
Exports—January 1—March 31	47	171	- 73			
Beef:						
Production—March	214	174	+ 23			
Production—January 1—March 31	734	560	+ 29			
Imports—March	165	133	+ 24			
Imports—January 1—March 31	487	549	- 11			
Exports—March	2	1	+ 15			
Exports—January 1—March 31	3	12	- 71			
Pork:						
Production—March	830	811	+ 2			
Production—January 1—March 31	2,451	2,542	- 4			
Imports—March	2	7	- 75			
Imports—January 1—March 31	6	24	- 77			
Exports—March	9	18	- 48			
Exports—January 1—March 31	22	126	- 83			
SAusage <sup>1</sup> :						
Production—March	106	110	- 3			
Production—January 1—March 31	330	303	+ 8			
Exports—March	5	6	- 15			
Exports—January 1—March 31	8	10	- 17			
Soup <sup>2</sup> :						
Production—March	1,087	798	+ 36			
Production—January 1—March 31	3,206	2,396	+ 34			
All other:						
Production—March	463	298	+ 55			
Production—January 1—March 31	1,346	915	+ 47			
Exports—March	6	6	- 8			
Exports—January 1—March 31	13	23	- 43			

Case sizes: Converted from pounds to standard cases of 36 pounds per case. (Meat soups, 30 pounds per case.)

<sup>1</sup> Imports included in "all other."

<sup>2</sup> Imports included in "all other." Exports included with vegetable soups.

### Canned Juices Mentioned in Tax Hearing

A tax of "one cent a bottle and equivalents" on soft drinks has been included in the excise tax proposals made by the U. S. Treasury to Congress, such a tax having been computed to yield \$132,500,000.

During consideration of these proposals by the House Committee on Ways and Means, May 9, the soft drink industry raised the question as to whether the proposed excise will apply also to unfermented fruit juices, fruit juices with sugar added, or so-called still drinks, pointing out that fruit juices in cans are sometimes sold as soft drinks.

No bill has been drafted and none will be drawn up until the House Committee finishes its consideration of the Treasury proposals.

### Asparagus for Processing

Good crops have been reported to the Agricultural Marketing Service by growers of asparagus in four States where cuttings began April 21—Delaware, New Jersey, Illinois and Michigan. In the first two States this was an unusually early date; in Illinois and Michigan it was ten days earlier than harvesting got underway in 1940. Prospects were reported favorable to a good yield.

### House Passes Bill on Priorities

The House on May 7 passed a bill to extend the priorities authority of the Office of Production Management to contracts or orders made under the Lend-Lease law and to other contracts or orders deemed necessary for national defense. Through the adoption of an amendment, the House also voted to replace the present priorities set-up with a paid Director of Priorities who would establish industry committees to advise him in the exercise of his powers. The amendment would make all acts of the Director subject to the approval of the Joint Army and Navy Munitions Board.

### Increase in Milk Production Expected

Speaking over a national network, Wallace Kadderly of the Department of Agriculture stated May 1 that the country's production of cheese and evaporated milk needs to be expanded. Members of the Department who have talked with representatives of the British Government believe that the dairy products the English will need most include evaporated milk. Passage of the Lend-Lease Act, and a rising demand by consumers in this country, were cited as warranting an increased production of milk in the nation amounting to six to eight per cent.

### 1940 Pack of Cranberries, Cranberry Sauce

The pack of cranberries and cranberry sauce was 1,993,062 cases in 1940 as compared with 1,927,901 cases in 1939. The pack of cranberry juice in 1940 was 84,720 cases, compared with 71,468 cases in 1939.

### Unsold Stocks of Canned Salmon

Unsold stocks of canned salmon decreased 130,518 cases during April, from 363,207 cases on March 31 to 232,689 cases on April 30, according to statistics compiled by the Association of Pacific Fisheries. Stocks on April 30, 1940, were 1,250,284 cases, as compared with 232,689 on April 30, 1941.

The figures for both years are based on reports of companies packing 99 per cent of the pack. The following table presents detailed figures on unsold stocks:

Grades or Varieties	Tails	Flats	Halves	Total	Total
	(1 pound)	(1 pound)	(8 dozen)	Apr. 30, 1941	Apr. 30, 1940
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Chinooks or Kings:					
Fancy Red	324	2,693	18,634	21,651	18,692
Standard	1,676	3,026	7,376	12,078	7,923
Pale	150		13	5,616	5,779
White	59	13	2,230	2,302	154
Puget Sound Sockeyes				81	20,131
Alaska Reds	9,320	977	36,220	46,517	921,658
Cohos, Silvers, Medium Reds				10,238	6,446
Pinks	66,736	842	1,308	68,886	132,847
Chums	17,674	5	2,517	20,196	81,128
Bluebacks				405	405
Steelheads	1,461	420	1,712	3,503	481
Totals	107,638	14,516	110,535	232,689	1,250,284

### Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

#### Carlot Shipments as Reported to the Agricultural Marketing Service by Common Carriers

Carlot shipments of tomatoes, green peas, citrus and miscellaneous fruits competing directly with canned fruits were larger during the week ending May 3, 1941, than during the corresponding week of 1940, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Shipments of tomatoes and of citrus fruits were nearly a third larger.

The following table, compiled from statistics of the Agricultural Marketing Service, gives detailed comparisons of carlot shipments on certain dates of selected vegetables and fruits:

VEGETABLES	Week ending			Season total to—	
	May 3, 1940	May 3, 1941	Apr. 26, 1941	May 3, 1940	May 3, 1941
Beans, snap and lima	280	175	155	2,707	2,692
Tomatoes	309	420	379	5,171	8,842
Green peas	168	194	182	1,830	1,747
Spinach	203	92	104	5,381	5,047
Others:					
Domestic, competing directly	1,377	1,040	1,766	37,351	35,036
Imports, competing directly	13	19	14	427	791
Imports, competing indirectly	18	12	47	2,591	2,428
FRUITS					
Citrus, domestic	3,231	4,337	3,820	105,120	108,741
Others, domestic	457	958	648	18,386	17,563

### Urge Higher Tax on Non-Defense Products

Leon Henderson, administrator of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, testified during the continuation of hearings before the House Committee on Ways and Means this week on proposals to raise additional taxes to meet defense needs. Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, also appeared before the Committee. It is expected that the hearings will continue for another week.

Mr. Henderson urged that Congress impose heavy taxes on products that compete with national defense requirements and impose lower taxes on non-competitive products. He suggested a 20 per cent tax on automobiles. Mr. Eccles joined with Mr. Henderson in urging heavy taxes on articles manufactured from products necessary for national defense and also joined with Mr. Henderson in advocating increased excess profits taxes and modification of the Treasury Department's proposed tax rates on individuals of lower incomes. Both witnesses opposed a general sales tax.

The House Committee on Agriculture reported this week a bill to include cotton in the Crop Insurance Act and to conditionally include corn in the program. This latter crop would be subject to crop insurance as soon as the required data has become available, according to the House bill.

### Regulation Covering Official Samples Amended

The Federal Security Administrator recently signed an amendment to the regulation for the enforcement of Section 702(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

This section provides that under certain conditions a part of any official sample collected for analysis under the Act shall be furnished on request to the owner or his agent.

The original regulation required payment in advance for such samples. Under the new amendment, which occurs in paragraph (c) of the regulation and which is effective immediately, no charge will be made for a subdivision of an official sample that is requested under the authority of Section 702(b).

### Increase in 1941 Dry Edible Bean Acreage

A program aimed at a 35 per cent expansion in the acreage planted this season to dry edible beans of the white varieties over the 1940 acreage, was announced May 6 by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard. Such an increase will be needed to assure adequate supplies and reserves to meet domestic commercial, school lunch, relief, and export requirements, as well as for shipments under the Lend-Lease Act and by the American Red Cross.

To provide farmers with incentive for increasing acreage, the Department of Agriculture intends to support the market for the following three types of white beans: Pea and Medium White, Great Northern, and Small White. The Department will make its purchases of new-crop beans in so far as practicable from production of farmers cooperating in the A.A.A. program. Operations will be directed at supporting the market for the above types of beans produced by such cooperating producers on an Eastern seaboard basis at an average price level of approximately \$5 a cwt., until about May 1, 1942. Some variation in prices will be necessary to reflect differences in transportation rates from point of purchase (these range from 20 cents to \$1 per cwt.) and to allow for differences in grade and supply and price situations which may develop.

Continued purchases of both white and colored varieties of dry edible beans will be made as needed.

Growers who take part in this program and increase their acreage of the desired varieties of white beans will not incur any deductions from their A.A.A. payments because of so doing.

Production of the three varieties of white beans in 1940 totaled about 6,700,000 bags of 100 pounds each (equal to 6,200,000 bags, cleaned basis).

### GREEN LIMA BEANS FOR PROCESSING

#### Agricultural Marketing Service Reports Indicated Acreage Plans

An increase of about 19 per cent over the 1940 acreage planted to green lima beans for processing is in prospect for 1941, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. If these late April plans are carried out, the 1941 planted acreage will total 61,900 acres compared with 51,890 acres planted in 1940 and average plantings for the preceding 10-year (1930-1939) period of 34,010 acres. This prospective 1941 acreage exceeds the previous record-high acreage of 55,010 planted in 1938, by 13 per cent.

Abandonment of acreage planted to green lima beans for processing as a result of unfavorable growing conditions has averaged 4.4 per cent during the past 10 years. If this loss of planted acreage is assumed for 1941, a planting of 61,900 acres will result in about 59,200 acres for harvest. The revised estimate of acreage harvested in 1940 is 47,890 acres.

and for the preceding 10-year (1930-1939) period averaged 32,460 acres.

The following table shows, by groups of States, the acreage that would result if these late April intentions to contract and plan are carried out. These intentions may be modified considerably before plantings actually are made, and therefore are not to be considered as plantings for the coming season.

State	Planted Acreage		Intended in 1941	
	10-year (1930-1939)		Per cent of 1940	Acres indicated
	Average	1940		
New Jersey	5,380	9,450		
Delaware	8,370	11,500	120.9	36,450
Maryland	3,250	3,200		
Virginia	5,880	6,000		
Michigan	3,280	2,150	99.8	4,740
Wisconsin	1,000	2,600	121.9	20,710
Other States <sup>1</sup>	6,850	16,900	119.3	61,900
Total	34,010	51,890		

<sup>1</sup> "Other States" include: Ark., Calif., Colo., Ga., Ill., Ind., Ia., Minn., N. Y., N. Car., Ohio, Ore., Pa., S. Car., Tenn., Utah and Wash.

### Intended Acreage of Pimientos for Processing

If pimiento packers in California and Georgia carry out the plans they had in mind when reporting to the Agricultural Marketing Service in late April, the 1941 plantings for processing in these two States will total 18,300 acres. This compares with 15,490 acres planted in 1940 and average plantings for the preceding 10-year (1930-39) period of 13,120 acres.

The following table shows the acreage of pimientos intended for 1941 in California and Georgia. These April intentions may be modified somewhat before plantings actually are made, and therefore are not to be considered as the acreage planted for the 1941 season.

State	Planted Acreage		Intended in 1941	
	10-year (1930-1939)		per cent of 1940	Acres indicated
	Average	1940		
California	1,410	690	101.4	700
Georgia	11,710	14,800	118.9	17,600
Total	13,120	15,490	118.1	18,300

### O. C. HUFFMAN DIES

#### Former President of Continental Can Was Member of War Industries Board

Funeral services were held in New York, May 8, for Oscar Caperton Huffman, former president of Continental Can Co., who died at the Savoy Plaza Hotel there, May 6, following a three weeks' illness. Burial was made in Buchanan, Virginia, near Augusta, where Mr. Huffman was born in 1876, a descendant of Colonial families. Educated in the public schools and at Staunton Military Academy, Mr. Huffman was a graduate of Washington and Lee University, of which he became a trustee later.

For a term after leaving college he served as secretary to the late Representative Henry St. George Tucker. In 1903 he organized and became president of the Virginia Can Company, later moving to Cincinnati to establish the United States Can Company, which merged with Continental Can

Company in 1928. Mr. Huffman was made vice president of the merged company, and two years later became president.

That is the year in which he directed the installation of the first complete line of high speed, automatic can making machinery in a British concern in which Continental held a stock interest. These machines had a capacity of 150,000 cans a day, and with them, Mr. Huffman introduced large scale can manufacturing principles to Great Britain.

During the first World War he was a member of the War Industries Board.

Mr. Huffman resigned as president of Continental in 1940, taking office as chairman of the board of directors.

### Wade Livingston Street Dies in Florida

Wade Livingston Street, once a first vice president of the National Canners Association, and formerly with the Sneider Packing Corporation, died at Coral Gables, Florida, May 4, after an illness of several months. At one time he had been a Chicago police commissioner.

Mr. Street was headed for the presidency of N.C.A. when he was named vice president at the annual convention in 1927, but ill health compelled him to retire from active work. In accepting his resignation at that time a resolution was passed expressing for the Board of Directors their "heartfelt appreciation of his loyal and efficient service to the Association and the canning industry."

### Weekly Record of S. M. A. Purchases

During the past week the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced, through the Surplus Marketing Administration, the purchase of 23,300 cases of pork and beans, 133,079 bushels of apples, 24,024 boxes of oranges, 554 tons of grapefruit, 88 tons of carrots, and 41,379,796 pounds of pork products, of which 14,534,796 pounds were canned pork products. The purchase of 167,900 bags of dry beans also was announced.

The following tables list the total purchases made by the Department of items of interest to canners since the middle of March and the total purchases of dry beans, by variety, during the past week and since the first of April. The table on dry bean purchases corrects an error made in the report contained in the INFORMATION LETTER of last week.

#### TOTAL PURCHASES SINCE MARCH 15

Commodities	Amount
Oranges (boxes)	147,116
Apples (bushels)	1,121,726
Evaporated milk (cases)	1,337,000
Pork products (pounds)	87,844,180
Pilchards, canned (cases)	103,635
Carrots (tons)	201
Grapefruit, juice (cases)	678,335
Grapefruit, segments (cases)	308,418
Grapefruit, fresh (tons)	6,300
Dry beans (bags)	558,313
Tomatoes, canned (cases)	618,675
Pork and beans (cases)	23,300

#### DRY BEAN PURCHASES

Variety	April 1-May 9		May 2-May 9	
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
Great Northerns	100,240		62,600	
Pintos	67,960		41,300	
Pinks		35,500		14,800
Blackeyes	37,410		6,200	
Pea beans		87,750		43,000
Total	388,920		167,900	

## PEA CROP CONDITION REPORT

## Information for Week Ending May 8 Compiled by Division of Statistics

MAINE—Planting continuing. Conditions warm and dry. Rain needed badly.

NEW YORK I—Practically all peas are in the ground. Season about two weeks earlier than last year. Soil has been very dry, but rain has improved conditions.

NEW YORK II—Peas mostly all planted. Not far enough along to determine stand, due to dry weather. Rains this week, however, have improved conditions.

NEW YORK III—Completed sowing this week. Stands Alaskas about 90 per cent. Local showers with normal temperature have improved growing conditions.

NEW YORK IV—Planting about two-thirds completed. Too early to report stand. Rains this week have improved growing conditions.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC II—Stand about 90 per cent. Vines 12 to 20 inches. Some aphid infestation. First bloom appeared May 3. Crop badly in need of rain.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC III—Fields clean, vines short due to dry weather. Soaking rain needed soon.

INDIANA—Vines short and yellowing. First bloom on Alaskas May 3, about 10 days early. Rain needed badly.

ILLINOIS—Stand of Alaskas in Northern Illinois 98 per cent. Sweets just coming through the ground. Alaska vines about 4 inches long. Rain needed badly for top soil, plenty of sub-soil moisture. Rains this week have improved conditions.

MICHIGAN—Planting of Alaskas practically completed in central part of State. Will finish planting in eastern section week of May 12. Rain on Tuesday and Wednesday materially improved conditions.

WISCONSIN I—Stand of Alaskas good. Vines 4 to 5 inches long. No aphids in peas, but plenty in alfalfa. Received rains this week which made growing conditions excellent.

WISCONSIN II—Stand of Alaskas very good—from 90 to 100 per cent, tallest reported vines 4 inches. Slight aphid infestation in alfalfa indicated by 2 out of 4 reporters for this district. One reporter says aphid infestation in alfalfa very heavy. High temperatures and lack of rain have made conditions favorable for aphis development. Beneficial rain Tuesday and Wednesday improved growing conditions.

WISCONSIN III—Stands of Alaskas 95 per cent, early Sweets 90. No aphids in peas to-date but developing rapidly in alfalfa. Above normal temperatures for the past week have accelerated germination. Some fields are weedy. Rain this week has relieved drought conditions. Soil moisture good.

WISCONSIN IV—Stand of Alaskas 90 per cent. Peas about 1 to 3 inches above ground. About half of the Alaskas planted, started planting Sweets May 7. Aphis commencing to show in alfalfa, about 15 to the Sweep. Rains this week have improved soil moisture conditions.

WISCONSIN V—First planting just coming through the ground. Growth conditions good with plenty of moisture and temperature little above normal.

IOWA—Stands from 95 to 100 per cent with growth about normal. Crop is not suffering from lack of moisture, but would be improved by rain. Early plantings good.

UTAH—Stands excellent, about 97 per cent. Vines 2 to 4 inches high. Planting practically finished. Scattered light showers keep growing conditions very favorable.

WYOMING—Stands excellent with growth very good. Heavy storm improved moisture conditions but has retarded planting.

WASHINGTON-OREGON—Seeding about finished. Growing conditions very good. Early planted peas about 6 inches high. Moisture conditions sufficient to carry crop through until blooming. Some danger that growth may become too succulent if cloudy, rainy conditions continue.

PUGET SOUND—Stand Early Sweets 100 per cent. Growth very good. Acreage about 75 per cent planted. Heavy rains last few days provided needed moisture for growth, but has delayed planting.

The following table shows temperature and rainfall data for the weeks ending May 6, 1940 and 1941:

REPORTING DISTRICTS	Temperature		Rainfall	
	1940 Degrees	1941 Degrees		
			1940 inches	1941 inches
Maine.....	+2	+1	1.3	0.13
N. Y. I.....	-1	+1	0.8	0.24
N. Y. II.....	-3	+3	0.6	0.01
N. Y. III.....	-1	+3	0.8	T
N. Y. IV.....	+1	+3	1.0	0.48
Mid-At. I.....	-2	+2	0.8	T
Mid-At. II.....	-1	+5	0.6	T
Mid-At. III.....	+2	+6	0.3	T
Ohio.....	-6	+8	0.2	0.1
Ind.....	-9	+6	1.4	0.0
Ill.....	-4	+12	1.1	1.0
Mich.....	-7	+11	1.0	0.16
Wis. I.....	-5	+13	1.2	0.63
Wis. II.....	-6	+12	0.5	0.5
Wis. III.....	-5	+12	0.4	0.25
Wis. IV.....	-5	+15	0.2	0.25
Wis. V.....	-5	+14	T	0.34
Minn.....	-5	+15	T	0.33
Iowa.....	-4	+11	0.3	0.19
Neb.....	0	+9	0.2	0.22
Colo.....	+8	+5	T	0.20
Utah I.....	+6	+4	0.0	0.08
Utah II.....	+6	+4	0.0	0.08
Utah III.....	+6	+4	0.0	0.08
Wyo.....	+7	+6	0.0	0.16
Mont.....	+3	+5	0.1	0.52
Wash.-Ore. I.....	-1	+2	0.3	1.35
Wash.-Ore. II.....	+4	+1	3.2	1.72
Puget Sound.....	+3	+3	1.7	0.71

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